

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 24 and 30 have been objected for certain informalities. These claims have been amended to remove informalities.

Claims 24-31 are objected to because they all start with "A method". The Examiner has suggested changing the phrase to "The method". Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants believe that the phrase "A method according to claim" is proper per MPEP guidelines. The Examiner has not provided any MPEP guideline that restricts the use of this phrase. According to Applicants' research on the PTO's website, a great number of patents have been issued using the identified phrase. Therefore, Applicants believe that the phrase is proper according to the guidelines and respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection for claims 24-30.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claims 23-25, 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rabenko et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,834,057 B1). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach each and every claim limitation. MPEP §2131. Rabenko et al. does not teach each and every limitation of claim 23.

Claim 23 has been amended to recite that the first time slot is allocated by a first network manager function in a first network and the second time slot is allocated by a second network manager function in a second network. Rabenko et al. does not teach this limitation. In Rabenco, all time slots are allocated by the CMTS 1042 and CM 1046 only transmits data in the slot allocated by the CMTS 1042. Further, Rabenco does not describe that CM 1046 is configured to allocate time slot by itself. Therefore, claim 23 is patentably distinguishable from Rabenko et al.

Claims 24 and 27 have been amended to recite that the first network is cable network and the second network is a home network. In Rabenco et al, the entire time allocation function is limited to the cable network and CM 1046 are part of the cable network itself. Thus, the time slot allocation is managed by CMTS 1046 for all CMs associated with a particular CMTS. Accordingly, claims 24 and 27 are clearly distinguishable from Rabenco et al.

Further, Applicants respectfully point to the Examiner that CM 1046 does not manage a home network as the Examiner has asserted. CM 1046 are actually Cable Modems configured to terminate data at a customer cite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 26 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rabenko et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,834,057 B1). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

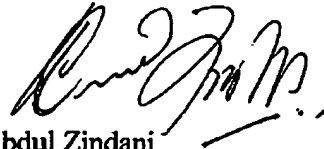
Claims 26 and 31 depend from claim 23, which has been distinguished from Rabenco et al. Therefore, claims 26 and 31 are patentably distinguishable from Rabenco et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 23.

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Rabenko et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,834,057 B1) in view of Amit (U. S. Patent Application No. 20040107445 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As to claim 27, Applicants respectfully point to the Examiner that in rejecting claim 24, the Examiner identified CM 1046 as home network manager; however, in rejecting claim 27, the Examiner has cited home network being IEEE802.11 network or Bluetooth network. The Examiner has not cited any reference that teaches that cable modems manage home networks for time slot allocation as recited in claim 23. Therefore, claim 27 is further patentably distinguishable from the combination of cited references.

Applicant believes this application and the claims herein to be in a condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have further inquiry concerning these matters, please contact the below named attorney for Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,



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